

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families



Purpose

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal block grant that allows states flexibility in using funds to: help needy families care for children; end dependence on public benefits by promoting work; reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Who Is Helped

TANF was created under the welfare reform legislation of 1996. Reform eliminated Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), ending federal entitlement and creating a flexible funding source for states to use in helping needy families achieve self-sufficiency.

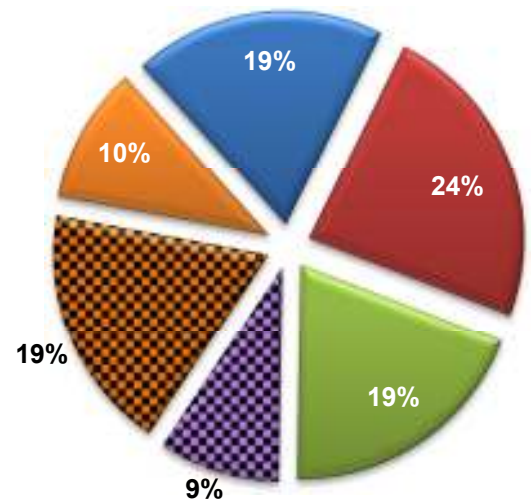
TANF funds are used to:

- Assist needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- Reduce the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Flexibility in the program allows transfer of a combined total of 30 percent of annual TANF funds to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).

Utilization of TANF by Program SFY15

- Family Investment Programs (19%)
- Child Welfare (24%)
- Service Delivery (19%)
- SSBG Transfer (9%)
- CCDF Transfer (19%)
- Direct Child Care (10%)



Combined CCDF and SSBG Transfer = 28%.
Combined CCDF Transfer and Direct TANF for CCA = 29%.

- ✓ *Cash assistance is limited to five years (lifetime) and assistance promotes work, responsibility, and self-sufficiency.*
- ✓ *The SFY16 Enacted Appropriation maximizes the combined amount of TANF transferred to CCDF and SSBG. Additional TANF funds are appropriated for direct child care assistance use. The department's request for SFY17 maintains this maximum transfer, as well as additional TANF for direct child care use.*

Services	<p>TANF funds are used for benefits and services targeted to needy families, as well as for service delivery and administrative expenses.</p> <p>The Family Investment Program (FIP) is the primary program that assists needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.</p> <p>Programs designed to reduce dependence of needy parents on government benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROMISE JOBS • Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) • Family Self-Sufficiency Grants (FSSG) <p>Preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families is supported by the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy Prevention • Child Abuse Prevention • Child Welfare (selected programs) • Promoting Healthy Marriage <p>Transfers to support other programs include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Assistance • Social Services Block Grant • Service Delivery <p>✓ <i>Using a small portion of TANF funding for promoting healthy marriage allows the state to expand categorical eligibility for food assistance thus providing food assistance benefits to more lowans in need.</i></p>
Goals & Strategies	<p>Goals, strategies, and performance results for TANF are incorporated into the programs that TANF funds support.</p>
	<p>✓ <i>Use of TANF funds for administration of TANF programs is limited to 15 percent; Iowa spends less than 10 percent.</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Current funding and authorization for TANF expires September 30, 2015. While TANF has been operating under a number of continuing resolutions during the past five years, more comprehensive reauthorization legislation is being considered at the Congressional level.</i></p>